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NOTES AND BRIEF ARTICLES

Professor John Dearness, one of the editors of MYCOLOGIA, was recently appointed principal of the Normal School at London, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. V. H. Young, formerly assistant professor of botany at the State University of Iowa, is now head of the department of botany at the University of Idaho.

Professor G. F. Atkinson,* with Miss Gertrude Douglass and Miss Edwina Smiley as assistants, spent most of the past summer between Florida and Washington, D. C., collecting and photographing fleshy fungi. About the middle of September he left for the Pacific Coast to continue the work of exploration.

Dr. Charlotte Elliott, of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, has been appointed assistant pathologist in the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Mr. G. H. Martin, Jr., formerly a teaching fellow in plant pathology at the University of Washington, has accepted the position of plant pathologist in the Plant Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. F. A. Wolf, for several years in charge of the botany and plant pathology work at the North Carolina Agricultural College and Experiment Station, has been given a commission as first lieutenant in the sanitary corps of the Army.

The rare *Venenarius glabriceps,* figured in MYCOLOGIA for September, 1916, was found again in the New York Botanical Garden, on September 14, by F. F. Wilmousky.

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* News has just been received that Professor Atkinson died of pneumonia in a hospital in Tacoma about the middle of November. Details are not available.

Excellent young specimens of *Armillaria nobilis* were recently sent to the Garden herbarium in a collection of 13 species of Colorado fungi secured by Dr. Joseph Cuneo at 8,500 feet elevation near Denver, Colorado.

Specimens of *Daedalea quercina* were collected in September at East Nottingham, Pennsylvania, by Professor A. H. Graves on Japanese chestnut and on butternut. The usual hosts for this fungus are oak and chestnut, butternut being very unusual.

A splendid sugar maple standing near the Bedford Park entrance to the Garden had one of its large branches torn away from the trunk several years ago by a storm, leaving an ugly wound. The entire side of the trunk below the wound is now covered with fruit-bodies of *Cerrena unicolor,* while *Elfvingia megaloma* appeared the past summer at the base of the tree.

Mrs. Wallis Craig Smith sent to the Garden herbarium late in September, from Upper Jay, New York, several interesting specimens of fleshy fungi, among them *Melanoleuca equestris, Melanoleuca Russula, Phylloporus rhodoxanthus,* and several specimens of a species of *Cortinarius* with the lamellae extremely abnormal, resembling the hymenium of a Merulius and suggesting *Tremella mycetophila.*

A new journal, the *Annals of the Phytopathological Society of Japan,* has been launched under the managership of N. Suemastu, T. Hemmi, and U. Bokura. The first number contains a brief historical sketch of the development of plant pathology in Japan; several papers on plant diseases; and thirty pages of reviews of pathological literature and notes. We welcome this new journal and wish for it great prosperity.

A very large collection of fungi was brought in on September 24 from Scarsdale, New York, by Mrs. I. Martin and Mrs. L. M. Keeler. It contained, in addition to many other interesting species, a specimen of *Grifola Sumstinei.* On September 25, Mrs. Keeler collected in the same locality a cluster of *Clitocybe sub-*

connexa and presented it to the Garden herbarium. This species was first collected in the New York Botanical Garden and had been known only from the original collection.

Grifola Sumstinei Murrill was collected three times last autumn in the vicinity of New York City. A splendid museum specimen was first sent in from Ridgewood, New Jersey, by Mrs. Alexander Taylor; and it was afterwards found at Princess Bay, Staten Island, by Mr. F. F. Wilmousky, and at Scarsdale by Mrs. L. M. Keeler. This large tree-destroying polypore is intermediate between *Grifola Berkeleyi* and *Grifola frondosa,* and would probably be confused by some with the latter species, but its lobes are broader and soon become blackish, both above and below.

Psilocybe polycephala (Paulet) Peck was collected by W. A. Murrill in his yard near Bronx Park on September 27, 1918. It had appeared in the same spot three consecutive seasons, growing in the grass among *Clitocybe multiceps.* The clusters are very dense and the small caps are yellowish-brown and very hygrophanous, becoming pallid on drying. According to Peck, the species is edible; its taste is certainly very agreeable. The gills are so slow in changing color that it might easily be mistaken at first for a white-spored species.

An article of unusual interest by Shantz and Piemeisel on fungous fairy rings in eastern Colorado and their effect on vegetation appeared in Vol. XI of the *Journal of Agricultural Research,* the 56 pages of text being illustrated by 21 plates and 15 figures. The paper begins with a summary of past studies and a list of the fungi that have been reported to form rings. Some are said to be destructive to grass and other forms of vegetation and others are claimed to be beneficial by causing stimulation of growth. The annual enlargement, as well as the age, of the rings is discussed, and some of the very large rings are estimated to be from 400 to 600 years old!

The North American species of *Coniophora* were treated by Burt in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* for September, 1917. Dr. Burt recognizes 19 species, 5 of which are described as new and 2 are newly combined. The 33 pages of text are illustrated by 19 text figures. New species are: *Coniophora inflata,* from Parral, Mexico, *Matthews; C. vaga,* from Hudson Falls, New York, *Burnham; C. avellanea,* from East Galway, New York, *Burt; C. Harperi,* from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, *Harper;* and *C. flava,* from Troy and Tyre, Jamaica, *Murrill & Harris.* New combinations are: *Coniophora Kalmiae* (Peck) Burt, and *C. polyporoidea* (Berk. & Curt.) Burt. The following species are excluded: *Coniophora capnoides* Ellis & Ev., *C. sordulenta* Cooke & Massee, and *Hypochnus pallescens* (Schw.) Burt, comb. nov.

A paper on some edible and poisonous mushrooms, by Dr. W. B. McDougall, was published in the spring of 1918 (Bull. Ill. State Lab. Nat. Hist. **11**: 413–555. 1917). The treatment of the species included is excellent, while the 57 halftone plates leave little to be desired except color. Attention may be called to the following species said to be edible: *Stropharia epimyces, Hypholoma lachrymabundum, Clitocybe odora, Mycena galericulata, Galera tenera, Claudopus nidulans,* and *Boletinus porosus.* The peculiar odor of *Claudopus nidulans,* so characteristic and yet so difficult to describe, is said to resemble that of the freshly opened viscera of swine. The parasitic mold so common on *Lentinus tigrinus* is said to be due to a species of *Sporotrichum,* a discovery credited to Miss Esther Young.

Dr. E. W. Olive, of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, spent some time during the past summer assisting government and state agents in locating plant diseases and instructing farmers how to combat them. His experiences in parts of New York and Virginia were given in a public lecture at the New York Botanical Garden on October 26, with lantern slides illustrating some of the most important and recently introduced diseases, among them the nematode disease of wheat noted in the November number of MYCOLOGIA and the potato wart disease referred to below.

The European potato wart disease has been discovered in ten mining villages near Hazelton, Pennsylvania, by Professor J. G. Sanders, economic zoologist of that state. Every effort of the state authorities, with the federal department assisting, is being directed to prevent the further spread of this insidious and most dangerous disease known to affect the potato. It appears that the disease has been established in some of these villages for at least seven or eight years, where it has been impossible at times to secure even the amount of seed planted. It is deemed advisable that all state authorities should inspect large centers of consumption where imported potatoes may have been purchased during the past eight or ten years.

A comprehensive report on the sugarcane diseases of Porto Rico, by J. R. Johnston and J. A. Stevenson, containing 88 pages of text and 13 plates, recently appeared in the *Journal of the Agricultural Department of Porto Rico*. It is stated that sugarcane diseases have been present and serious since 1870, and that some now present several difficult problems. Fungi found chiefly on the roots and lower stalk include *Marasmius Sacchari, Himantia stellifera,* and *Odontia saccharicola,* all of which are more or less concerned in the so-called root disease. The principal stalk diseases include red rot, *Colletotrichum falcatum;* rind disease, *Melanconium Sacchari;* and a new disease, *Cytospora Sacchari,* which seriously threatens certain varieties.

A number of leaf diseases are of universal occurrence, though none appear to be seriously injurious. Descriptions are given of red spot of the leaf sheath, *Cercospora vaginae;* red rot of the leaf sheath, *Sclerotium Rolfsii;* eye spot, *Helminthosporium Sacchari;* ring spot, *Leptosphaeria Sacchari;* brown leaf spot, *Cercospora longipes;* red stripe; and wither tip. The only important disease of cane cuttings, which is that due to *Thielaviopsis paradoxa,* is readily prevented by dipping them in Bordeaux mixture.

A chlorotic disease occurring on the south coast is described in connection with control measures. Yellow stripe occurs in very limited areas. The new disease (as yet uncontrolled), which is characterized by a mottling of the leaves followed by a stalk canker, occurs in the western portion of the island, occasioning heavy losses.

The influence of the war on botany is discussed in *Science* for August 23, 1918, by Neil E. Stevens, who finds that the "most striking effect on American botanists has been to direct their attention more generally than ever before to the problems of plant pathology. . . . Statements that we 'must save wheat for our allies' lent new interest to the fact that stinking smut of wheat annually costs the United States twenty-two million bushels. Urgent advice that we must use perishable fruits and vegetables to save more concentrated foods for the armies in France called public attention sharply to the fact that fresh fruits and vegetables cannot easily be shipped great distances, that they are in truth highly perishable; and finally to the tragic fact that large amounts are annually lost in transit and on the market. . . . This summer is seeing a campaign for the control of plant diseases never approached in this country. With this there is being carried on an increased amount of research on fundamental scientific questions of significance in the control of plant diseases. . . . Undoubtedly the greatest immediate gain will come from the extension work, from the distribution of information to the plant pathologists of every state in the union and the further distribution of this information through the county agents and the farm demonstrators to the actual producers. It is highly probable, however, that the greatest ultimate good to plant pathology as a science and to the nation will come from the temporary enlistment of a large number of botanists from other lines."

Dr. Burt has done an excellent piece of work on the genus *Merulius* as represented in North America. His treatment was published in the *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* for November, 1917, and comprises 58 pages of text, 38 text figures, and 3 plates containing 36 figures photographed natural size. There are 40 species recognized, 15 of which are new, 3 newly combined, and 2 doubtful and excluded. Most of the Garden collection was studied by Dr. Burt and 5 of his types are in the Garden herbarium.

New species: *Merulius hirsutus,* from Jalapa, Mexico, *Murrill; M. cubensis,* from Alto Cedro, Cuba, *Earle & Murrill; M. gyrosus,* from Vermilion, Michigan, *Povah; M. sororius,* from Takoma Park, Maryland, *Shear; M. lichenicola,* from North Elba, New York, *Peck; M. dubius,* from New York City, *Murrill; M. sulphureus,* from Palm Beach, Florida, *Thaxter; M. tomentosus,* from Sidney, British Columbia, *Macoun; M. hirtellus,* from Sharon, Massachusetts, *Piquet; M. Farlowii,* from Chocorua, New Hampshire, *Farlow; M. americanus; M. hexagonoides,* from Muir Woods, California, *Harper; M. montanus,* from Priest River, Idaho, *Weir; M. byssoideus,* from Rio Piedras, Porto Rico, *Johnston;* and *M. atrovirens,* from Mt. Mitchell, North Carolina, *Atkinson.*

New combinations: *Merulius deglubens* (Berk. & Curt.) Burt, *M. terrestris* (Peck) Burt, and *M. pinastri* (Fries) Burt.

Doubtful and excluded species: *Merulius patellaeformis* Berk. & Curt. and *Poria incrassata* (Berk. & Curt.) Burt, comb. nov.

Merulius hirsutus was described by Dr. Burt from only a fragment of the original collection, owing to a delay in sending him the two large collections made near Jalapa, Mexico, one of which was accompanied by field notes and a colored sketch. In spite of this, the description as published leaves little to be desired. Dr. Murrill's field notes, however, are added below:

> Pileus imbricate, sessile, projecting 1–4 cm., 3–5 cm. broad, about 3 mm. thick; surface cottony-white and densely tomentose, white on the margin; hymenium uneven and somewhat zonate-sulcate, ochraceous to ferruginous, consisting of very obtuse, low folds, which disappear near the margin.
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> On fallen dead branches in the forest.